

in looking from 170 on we will be skipping 306 as Senator Marsh is not here, but starting with 170 and then jumping to number eight going on down the line, there are several bills that have no amendments on them and we would like to advance those off Select File. So if any of you are interested, have a quick look at those before we get on that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, stand in opposition to LB 64. I opposed it in committee and I oppose it here. The elderly, they especially benefit as they go to one place to become eligible for any social service program. They go to the Department of Social Services as it soon will be called for Medicaid and the Meals on Wheels, for the Handyman programs, for transportation services, any program that is now in effect they go to the Department of Social Services. I, too, believe that this stigma of Department of Welfare is not a beneficial reason for adopting or passing this bill. I think the most important thing we should remember is the Department of Social Services will have offices in ninety-three counties and at least twelve hundred employees. To transfer this now to the Department of Energy would be a great mistake. It would be expensive, costly and it certainly would not help the elderly in the social programs they deserve and need and they would be very confused especially out in the rural area where there is no Department of Energy office and then as Senator Warner's amendment was passed they would contract with the Department of Welfare. All this is definitely unnecessary and I urge the members of the Legislature to oppose LB 64.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Senator Landis, would you like to close on your bill?

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Chronister. These arguments we heard before when we voted to advance LB 64 last week. The Senator Warner amendments have gone a long ways to assuage these arguments. In essence, the Warner amendment indicates that the Department of Welfare will continue to provide services for traditional welfare clients, the people who have been going there. What has not occurred in the past with enough regularity is an outreach that draws into the program the elderly and the handicapped who are not traditional welfare recipients but who are eligible for the program. Remember the guidelines are different for this program than they are for all the other welfare programs and for that reason, there are people out there who qualify, who are in need, but who have not been the traditional welfare recipient. This arrangement will serve